# INDIA 1600–1947
# FULL TIMELINE WITH BRIEF EXPLANATIONS

(Exam-Ready)

# 🌐 1600–1700: Company Arrival & Early Settlements

## 1600 – East India Company Founded

- **What:** A trading company formed by British merchants.
- **Why:** To trade spices, silk, and cotton with the East.
- **Who:** British Crown granted charter to the merchants.

## 1608 – First English Factory at Surat

- **What:** First trading post in India.
- **Why:** Surat was a major Mughal port.
- **Who:** Established by **Captain Hawkins** under Jahangir.

## 1615 – Sir Thomas Roe's Embassy

- **What:** Roe negotiated trade rights.
- **Why:** EIC wanted secure trading privileges.
- **Who:** Mughal Emperor **Jahangir** granted permission.

## 1639 – Madras (Fort St. George) Established

- **What:** British fort & trading centre.
- **Why:** Needed a secure coastal base.
- **Who:** Francis Day (EIC) acquired land from local rulers.

## 1668 – Bombay Given to EIC

- **What:** Bombay transferred from Portuguese (dowry) → British → EIC.
- **Why:** Strategic naval base.
- **Who:** King Charles II leased it to EIC.

## 1690 – Calcutta Founded

- **What:** Factory & settlement at Sutanuti.
- **Why:** For Bengal trade expansion.

- **Who:** Job Charnock (credited).

# 🛢 1700–1765: Expansion & Plassey–Buxar

## 1757 – Battle of Plassey

- **What:** EIC defeated Nawab Siraj-ud-Daulah.
- **Why:** Dispute over misuse of trade privileges + Black Hole incident.
- **Who:** Robert Clive allied with Mir Jafar.

## 1761 – Third Battle of Panipat

- **What:** Afghans defeated Marathas.
- **Why:** Control of north India.
- **Who:** Ahmad Shah Abdali vs Maratha Confederacy.

## 1764 – Battle of Buxar

- **What:** EIC defeated combined Indian forces.
- **Why:** To secure Bengal dominance.
- **Who:** Hector Munro vs Mir Qasim + Shuja-ud-Daulah + Shah Alam II.

## 1765 – Grant of Diwani

- **What:** EIC got revenue rights of Bengal, Bihar, Orissa.
- **Why:** Result of Treaty of Allahabad.
- **Who:** Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II.

# 🛢 1773–1856: Administration, Acts & Social Reforms

## 1773 – Regulating Act

- **What:** First control of British Parliament over EIC.
- **Why:** Corruption & misrule in Bengal.
- **Who:** Made Warren Hastings **Governor-General of Bengal**.

## 1781 – Amending Act / Settlement Act

- **What:** Corrected defects of 1773 Act.
- **Why:** Conflicts between Supreme Court & Governor-General.
- **Who:** British Parliament.

## 1784 – Pitt's India Act

- **What:** Dual control: EIC + Board of Control.
- **Why:** To tighten crown supervision.
- **Who:** British PM William Pitt.

## 1813 – Charter Act

- **What:** Ended EIC's trade monopoly in India.
- **Why:** British merchants demanded free trade.
- **Who:** British Parliament.

## 1829 – Abolition of Sati

- **What:** Sati (widow burning) banned.
- **Why:** Social reform movement.
- **Who:** Lord Bentinck & Raja Ram Mohan Roy.

## 1833 – Charter Act

- **What:** Ended EIC's trade completely; created Governor-General of India.
- **Why:** Company shifted to purely administrative work.
- **Who:** Lord William Bentinck became 1st Governor-General of India.

## 1853 – Charter Act

- **What:** Introduced open competition for Civil Services.
- **Why:** Needed a merit-based IAS/ICS system.
- **Who:** Macaulay Committee later refined it.

## 1856 – Widow Remarriage Act

- **What:** Legalized widow remarriage.
- **Why:** Social reform.
- **Who:** Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar.

# 🛢 1857–1885: Revolt & Beginning of Nationalism

## 1857 – Revolt of 1857

- **What:** First major uprising against British rule.
- **Why:** Greased cartridges, land policies, discontent.
- **Who:** Mangal Pandey, Rani Lakshmi Bai, Bahadur Shah II, Kunwar Singh.

## 1858 – Government of India Act

- **What:** Crown took direct control; EIC abolished.
- **Why:** Failure of 1857 revolt.
- **Who:** Lord Canning became first Viceroy.

## 1861 – Indian Councils Act

- **What:** Introduced Indians in law-making.
- **Why:** To appease Indians after 1857.

## 1876 – Queen Victoria = Empress of India

- **What:** Title proclaimed at Delhi Durbar.
- **Why:** Consolidation of Empire.

## 1878 – Vernacular Press Act

- **What:** Censorship of Indian-language newspapers.
- **Why:** Stop nationalist growth.
- **Who:** Lord Lytton.

## 1881 – Factory Act

- **What:** Restricted child labour.
- **Why:** Worker protection.

## 1885 – Indian National Congress Formed

- **What:** First all-India political organisation.
- **Why:** Need for national platform.
- **Who:** A.O. Hume; W.C. Banerjee (1st President).

# 🌐 1885–1905: Early Nationalism

## 1892 – Indian Councils Act

- **What:** Increased members & allowed limited elections.
- **Why:** Growing nationalism.

## 1905 – Partition of Bengal

- **What:** Bengal split into East & West.
- **Why:** Administrative + divide & rule.
- **Who:** Lord Curzon.

# 🌐 1905–1919: Swadeshi to Gandhian Era Begins

## 1905–08 – Swadeshi Movement

- **What:** Boycott of British goods.
- **Why:** Protest against Bengal Partition.
- **Who:** Aurobindo, Tilak, Lala Lajpat Rai.

## 1907 – Surat Split

- **What:** Moderates vs Extremists.
- **Why:** Method differences.
- **Who:** Tilak vs Gokhale camps.

## 1909 – Morley–Minto Reforms

- **What:** Introduced separate electorates for Muslims.
- **Why:** Pacify Muslim elites.

## 1911 – Partition of Bengal Reversed

- **What:** Reunification.
- **Why:** Heavy protests.
- **Who:** Coronation of George V in Delhi.

## 1915 – Gandhi Returns

- **What:** From South Africa.
- **Why:** To join freedom struggle.

## 1917 – Champaran Satyagraha

- **What:** Indigo plantation oppression.
- **Why:** Farmers forced for indigo.
- **Who:** Gandhi’s first satyagraha in India.

## 1918 – Kheda Satyagraha

- **What:** Tax remission demand.
- **Who:** Gandhi, Patel.

## 1919 – Rowlatt Act

- **What:** Detention without trial.
- **Why:** To curb revolutionary activities.

## 1919 – Jallianwala Bagh Massacre

- **What:** Peaceful gathering fired upon.
- **Who:** General Dyer.
- **Why:** Protest against Rowlatt Act.

## 1919 – Government of India Act

- **What:** Dyarchy in provinces.
- **Why:** Constitutional reforms.

# 🛢 1919–1935: Gandhi Era – Mass Movements & Reforms

## 1920–22 – Non-Cooperation Movement

- **What:** Khilafat + Swaraj + boycott.
- **Why:** Rowlatt, Jallianwala.
- **End:** Chauri Chaura incident.

## 1927 – Simon Commission

- **What:** All-British commission.
- **Why:** Review 1919 Act.
- **Slogan:** “Simon Go Back”.

## 1928 – Nehru Report

- **What:** First Indian constitution draft.
- **Why:** Counter to Simon Commission.

## 1929 – Lahore Session

- **What:** Purna Swaraj declared.
- **Who:** Congress President Jawaharlal Nehru.

## 1930 – Dandi March

- **What:** Salt Satyagraha.
- **Why:** Protest salt tax.

## 1930–34 – Civil Disobedience Movement

- **What:** Non-payment of taxes.
- **Who:** Gandhi.

## 1931 – Gandhi–Irwin Pact

- **What:** Truce; CDM suspended.

## 1932 – Communal Award

- **What:** Separate electorates to depressed classes.
- **Why:** British divide & rule.
- **Who:** MacDonald.

## 1932 – Poona Pact

- **What:** Reserved seats, not separate electorates.
- **Who:** Gandhi & Ambedkar.

## 1935 – Government of India Act

- **What:** Provincial autonomy; federal scheme proposed.
- **Why:** Largest constitutional reform before Independence.

# 🌐 1935–1947: Final Phase

## 1937 – Provincial Elections

- **What:** Congress forms ministries in many provinces.

## 1939 – Resignation of Congress Ministries

- **Why:** India dragged into WW2 without consultation.

## 1940 – August Offer

- **What:** Constitutional promise to Indians.
- **Why:** Gain Indian support in WW2.

## 1942 – Quit India Movement

- **What:** Immediate British withdrawal demanded.
- **Why:** Failure of Cripps Mission.
- **Who:** “Do or Die” – Gandhi.

## 1943 – Bengal Famine

- **What:** Food shortage, millions died.
- **Who:** During Lord Linlithgow / Churchill govt.

## 1946 – Cabinet Mission

- **What:** Plan for united India.
- **Why:** Draft constitution.

## 1947 – Mountbatten Plan

- **What:** Partition of India.
- **Why:** Communal tension & political deadlock.

## 15 August 1947 – Independence

- **What:** India & Pakistan created.
- **Who:** Last Viceroy → Lord Mountbatten.